

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF PORTO RICO
Office of the Commissioner
San Juan

November 5, 1909
Circular Letter No. 52

To Supervising Principals:-

2.- The school day for the first and second grades with single enrollment should not be less than four hours. In case of schools with double enrollment it will not be possible to give a four-hour school day to each session. In some districts three hours are given to each session and in other two and one half hours. In no case should the session be less than three hours.

3.- The school day for grades III and VIII inclusive, should not be less than six hours. But for rural schools outside of urban limits, five hours may constitute a school day at the discretion of the Supervising Principal. At the present time most districts have a six-hour school day in these grades but some have only five and one half hours. The length of the school day should be uniform throughout the Island.

4.- An intermission of thirty minutes daily should be given in all rural schools with single enrollment and a recess of fifteen minutes in each session where the school has double enrollment. A recess of fifteen minutes should be given in the graded schools in both morning and afternoon sessions. I feel very strongly the importance of adequate recess periods for the children. Better work can be done with somewhat frequent recess periods than without them.

5.- In so far as possible, teachers should be with the pupils on the playground during recess to assist and help them and to teach them different games.

6.- Up to the present time there has been little or no uniformity as to the length of recitation periods for the different grades. First grade programs have been found with recitation periods ranging anywhere from ten to thirty minutes. To avoid differences of this nature, the following schedule is given for the recitation periods in the different grades.

Grades I and II not over fifteen minutes. Grade III and IV not over twenty minutes. Grades V and VI not over twenty-five minutes. Grades VII and VIII not over thirty minutes.

7.- The session in night schools should not be less than two hours.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Edwin G. Dexter
Commissioner of Education